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PATENT

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 23, 2003, the Applicant hereby makes amendments to claims 22, 22, 24, 33 and 34 as presented herein. Claims 1-37 remain pending in the application

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-37 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner in making this rejection states that there is no clear antecedent basis for the expression "electrically-conductive metal" as used in claims 21, 22, 24, 33, and 34.

The applicant in response has amended claims 21, 22, 24, 33, and 34. Specifically, the applicant has amended the claims to not reference to the term "electrically-conductive material". The applicant believes that the amendment to these claims places claims 21, 22, 24, 33, and 34 in a condition for allowance, and additionally the claims depending therefrom. It is believed that these amendments to the claims overcome the Examiner's rejection.

The applicant now believes that the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections have been overcome in light of the amendments and remarks herein. Accordingly, the applicants believe that claims 21-37 are in a condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

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The applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 1-20 appear to be in a condition for allowance. Fulfillment of the notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly states; rather any amendment not so identified may be considered as directed *inter alia* to clarification of the structure and/or function of the invention and Applicant's best mode for practicing the same. Additionally, no amendment made herein was presented for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references. Furthermore, no election to pursue a particular line of argument was made herein at the expense of precluding or otherwise impeding Applicant from raising alternative lines of argument later during prosecution. Applicant's failure to affirmatively raise specific arguments is not intended to be construed as an admission to any particular point raised by the Examiner.


The Applicant believes that the subject application, is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicant. In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney or agent at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection.

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SUMMARY: Reconsideration is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is believed that the application, including claims 1-37, is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502117.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Bogacz
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 29,047
Tel. (602) 952-3486

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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